



For Immediate Release
August 3, 2006

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**STATE HONORS 21 GRADUATES FROM
VOCATIONAL WORK TRAINING PROGRAM**

ROXBURY—Today, officials from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs (EOEA) and the Department on Conservation and Recreation (DCR) joined State Senator Dianne Wilkerson, Representative Gloria Fox, Boston City Councilor Chuck Turner and Massachusetts Department of Education Director of Career and Technical Education Jeffrey Wheeler in celebrating the graduation of 21 students from the EOEA-DCR Work Training Program. The event was held at the Dillaway-Thomas House at Roxbury Heritage State Park.

“The program has provided us with much needed assistance through its onsite and classroom training—the unique skills learned are valuable assets,” said Environmental Affairs Secretary Stephen R. Pritchard. “With the help of our 21 graduates, today we are one step closer to fulfilling this administration’s goal of having a world class parks system.”

The Work Training Program is designed to provide hands-on training for vocational students at DCR facilities across the Commonwealth, and where possible, to provide outreach to diversity youth both for the Program and for future placement within DCR state parks and other facilities. It is run through the Commonwealth’s Chapter 74 Cooperative Education Program.

“Today, the American workforce is losing many skilled tradespersons to retirement, and state agencies that rely on these skilled people to maintain infrastructure are particularly affected by this trend,” said DCR Commissioner Stephen H. Burrington. “With programs like the Work Training Program, DCR is taking the first steps to address this issue, in regards to both training and recruitment.”

The Program is now in its second year. A pilot program was initiated in 2005, developed by DCR and EOEA in partnership with Madison Park Technical Vocational High School. After it proved successful, the program was expanded statewide for 2006, with seven participating partner schools: Madison Park Technical Vocational High School, Bristol-Plymouth Regional High School, Old Colony Regional Technical High School, Essex Agricultural Technical High School, Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School, William J. Dean Technical Vocational School, and Charles McCann Technical High School.

Students in the Work Training Program work in fields such as carpentry, auto repair, facility management, signage and printing, and horticulture at DCR facilities.

A list of graduating students is attached.

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**DCR Vocational Work Training Program
Graduating Students 2006**

- Brian Adams, East Taunton (Bristol Plymouth Regional High School)
- Nicholas B. Arba, Bradford (Essex Agricultural Technical High School)
- Dennis Barbosa, Boston (Madison Park Technical Vocational High School)
- Derek J. Baumgartner, Lanesboro (Charles McCann Technical High School)
- Ditomar Cabral, Dorchester (Madison Park Technical Vocational High School)
- Gwenshermer A. Claiborne, Boston (Madison Park Technical Vocational High School)
- Vianni Diaz, Jamaica Plain (Madison Park Technical Vocational High School)
- Brandon Duarte, Acushnet (Old Colony Regional Technical High School)
- Jennifer Ferrante, Rowley (Essex Agricultural Technical High School)
- Emilio Guevara, Jamaica Plain (Madison Park Technical Vocational High School)
- Shembu K. Jalloh, Dedham (Madison Park Technical Vocational High School)
- Rajai H. Johnson, Boston (Madison Park Technical Vocational High School)
- Terrell Jones, Dorchester (Madison Park Technical Vocational High School)
- Mark D. Knight, Roxbury (Madison Park Technical Vocational High School)
- Harrison J. Locke, Barre (Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School)
- Anders Martenson IV, Middleboro (Bristol Plymouth Regional High School)
- James T. Ngo, Fitchburg (Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School)
- Birmania Nova, Jamaica Plain (Madison Park Technical Vocational High School)
- Sandro Pierre, Roxbury (Madison Park Technical Vocational High School)
- Juan G. Pimentel, Jamaica Plain (Madison Park Technical Vocational High School)
- Rachel L. Rivera, Holyoke (Dean Technical Vocational School)

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